LEAFLETS

of the Southern California Botanists

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President's Message

Greeting Southern California Botanists,

How is everyone doing out there? Spring is almost upon us. While it doesn't appear like we will be getting any super blooms this year, I'm still hopeful the recent rains will trigger a late push. What are you seeing in your area? Tag us (@socalbot) in your social media posts, and we'll try to share it!

Like the native flora of Southern California, we must also persevere in times of immense stress. We must be resilient and resistant to the forces that want to extirpate the things we hold dear. Sticking together will help, so please look after one another.

In 2025, we are welcoming Jacob Aragon to the SCB board. You may recognize him as one of the beer pourers at our symposium. Aside from being an excellent botanist and wildlife biologist. He moonlights as the head brewer of Alosta Brewing Company (who donate a keg or two to our symposium each year). I would also be remiss to acknowledge the retirement of long-time board members: Sandy Leatherman, Josh Der, Bob Allen, and Peri Lee Pipkin. SCB owes a debt of gratitude to all their contributions over the years.

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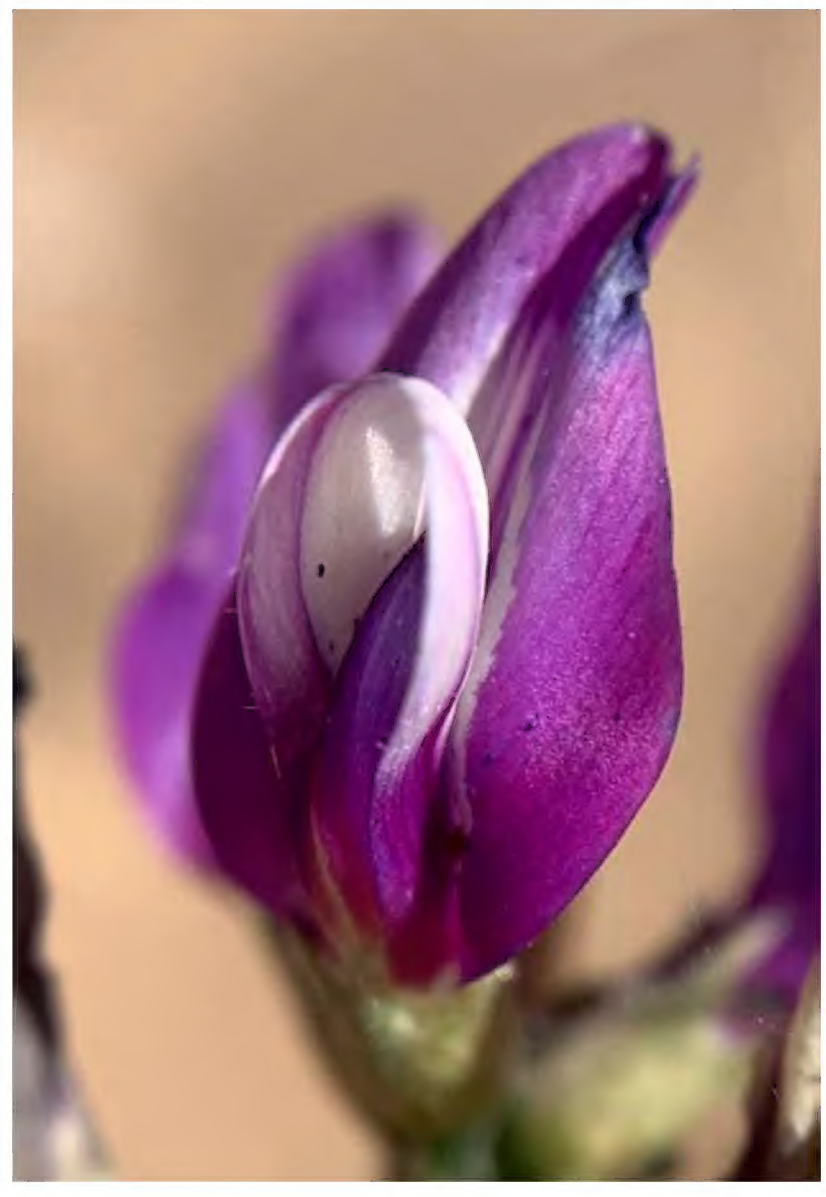

Astragalus magdalenae var. *peirsonii* (Pearson's milkvetch) by Duncan Bell.

We have some great events lined up for you all this year. Stay tuned for more info on field trips, workshops, Crossosoma publications, and our annual symposium.

Drew Kaiser
2024-2025 SCB President

Eureka Peak in Joshua Tree National Park

Adolphia californica from a SoCalBot field trip in San Diego County in April 2024 (by Diana Brand Ramirez).

2025 Field Trips: Save the Dates!

We are in the process of planning our 2025 field trip season! While we get the rest of the details figured out, please save the below dates and plan on a wonderful time in the field with us and our instructors.

May 2 - Fred Roberts in Gypsum Canyon (tentative), Orange County
May 3 - Justin Wood in Big Bear Valley and Holcomb Valley in San Bernardino Valley, San Bernardino County
May 31 - Tom Oberbauer at Cuyamaca Peak, San Diego County
June 7 - Gabe Elliot on Santa Rosa Plateau
April 19 - Ricardo Montigo on Colby Trail, Glendora in Los Angeles County

SCB Grant Winners 2024

The Southern California Botanists Grant Program attracted eight strong proposals in 2024. The Grants Committee evaluated all of the proposals and as always, had to make some hard choices. This year the Grants Committee chose to award a total of five grants. This year's recipients are:

<u>The Susan Hobbs Grant for Field Research for 2024:</u>
Reproductive ecology of charismatic California coastal dune wildflowers *Abronia latifolia* and *Abronia maritima*.
This project aims to better understand the evolutionary ecology of sand verbenas. In addition to characterizing the pollination systems, mating systems, herbivores, and reproduction of *A. latifolia* and *A. maritima*. This project may also aid in the conservation and restoration applications for these plants and their habitats.

By: Dave Ingram

<u>The Alan Romspert Grant in Desert Botany for Field Research for 2024:</u>
Mia Manfredi, California Botanic Garden and Claremont Graduate University, An integrative study examining the disjunct distribution of *Salvia funerea* M.E. Jones (Death Valley Sage, Lamiaceae).
This project aims to achieve a better understanding of the current conservation status of this rare Southern California desert species through investigation of population dynamics, gene flow, and climatic niche. The project will also contribute to filling the gap in general knowledge about the biology and ecology of this species.

<u>The SCB Conservation Grant for 2024:</u>
Teddy Reitman, University of California, Riverside, Measuring the phenotypic and genetic diversity of the native, endangered Algodones Dunes sunflower (*Helianthus niveus* ssp. *tephrodes*).
This project will look at the genetics and phenology of plants growing within the Algodones Dunes of Imperial County and will and will compare it with the plants growing within Anza Borrego Desert State Park of San Diego County. The outcome of the project should aid in resource allocation for this State endangered species, prioritization of

germplasm storage, and may potentially be used to guide conservation and management efforts.

<u>The Jessica Mae Orozco Diversity Grant for 2024:</u>
Mahima Dixit, California Botanic Garden and Claremont Graduate University. Phylogeny and Taxonomy of *Eriogonum* subgenus Ganysma with a Focus on the *E. deflexum* complex (Polygonaceae) and Phytochemical Diversity across *Eriogonum*.
The goal of this project is to better understand the genetics and speciation of the Eriogonum deflexum complex. This species complex is made up of at least nine annuals and one perennial that exhibit the downward-pointing involucres and flowers. The results will provide insight into this species complex, may identify new taxa, all of which can then be used to guide conservation and management efforts of any rare taxa.

<u>The SCB Annual Grant for 2024:</u>
Samantha Ingram, California Botanic Garden and Claremont Graduate University, Unraveling the Taxonomy and phylogenetic Relationships of Ericameria parryi in the Western United States.
This project aims to examine morphological and genetic diversity of Ericameria parryi to better understand the species boundaries and to evaluate the rarity and conservation status of the 12 recognized varieties. The result will specifically look at the rarity of Ericameria parryi var. imula from Southern California and will possibly find additional varieties of this species that are currently not recognized.

Please consider donating to support the Grants Program: The grants are supported by revenue generated by the silent auction at the annual symposium, donations, and the general funds of the SCB. Please assist us in maintaining this 42-year tradition by donating to support our grant program.

What's in Bloom?

Showcasing the beauty of California's native flora.

Asclepias subulata (Rush Milkweed)
Apocynaceae (Asclepiadaceae)
North Algodones Dunes Wilderness Area
January 2025
Photo Credit: Duncan Bell

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BOTANISTS
2024 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

EXPENSES for 2024	
Storage	$936.00
Student Grants	$4,000.00
Mailing	$230.00
Taxes	$335.86
Board Insurance + event insurance	$3,265.01
Honorariums symposium	$900.00
Catering dinner symposium	$1,450.00
Hotel for symposium speakers	$851.20
Travel for speakers	$1,226.83
General symposium expenses	$751.17
Promotional merchandise	$1,817.60
Workshop expenses + honorarium	$2,045.18
Pomona College rental fees 23' & 24'	$1,220.00
Square fees	$148.78
Total Expenditures	**$19,177.63**

INCOME for 2024	
Membership	$2,526.86
Symposium registration (membership incl.)	$10,304.94
Symposium food sales	$1,480.00
Interest checking and savings	$115.96
Gifts + Symposium Auction	$1,675.97
Sales	$2,450.03
Publications	$55.00
Workshops	$3,966.00
Total income	**$22,574.76**

For 2024 we had a gain of $3,397.00

Crossosoma: Call for Manuscripts!

We need your content! Crossosoma serves as the esteemed scientific journal of the Southern California Botanists. We invite contributions that illuminate the flora of Southern California and its adjacent, floristically intertwined realms. We seek subject matter such as ecological, taxonomic, floristic, or horticultural studies of both vascular and non-vascular plants, as well as informal notes, observations, and opinion pieces.

If you are interested in submitting content or are uncertain about the suitability, please inquire with the editors (editor (at) socalbot.org) and visit our website (https://socalbot.org/crossosoma/) for more information.

SCB Board Election Results

President: Drew Kaiser
Vice President: Diana Brand Ramirez
Treasurer: Carrie Kiel
Secretary: Gabe Elliot

New & Reconfirmed Board Members for the 2025-2026 Term:
Jacob Aragon
Michelle Cloud-Hughes
Naomi Fraga
Matt Guilliams
Kristen Hasenstab-Lehman
Margie Mulligan
Bayley Proctor
Justin Wood

Native Plant Gardens

- California Botanic Garden, calbg.org
- Fullerton Arboretum, at CSU Fullerton, fullertonarboretum.org
- Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, tinyurl.com/hahpacyd
- Native Garden at Golden West College, tinyurl.com/ymfrke3z
- Nature Gardens at Natural History Museum of L.A. Co., tinyurl.com/47th7nfz
- San Diego Botanic Garden, sdbg.org
- Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, sbbotanicgarden.org
- UCLA Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden, botgard.ucla.edu

SCB Grants Program

For more information on the SCB grant program, visit socalbot.org/grants or inquire at grants@socalbot.org

Please donate to the SCB Grants Program and help fund these wonderful grants: paypal.me/socalbot?locale.x=en_US

* SCB Annual Grant
* Susan Hobbs Grant for Field Research
* Alan Romspert Grant in Desert Botany
* Jessica Mae Orozco Diversity Grant
* SCB Conservation Grant

Other Grants Programs

* CNPS Student Research Grants, cnps.org/education/students/grants
* Orange County Chapter CNPS Grants, occnps.org/education/grants.html
* Dean Taylor Botanical Exploration Memorial Award, norcalbotanists.org
* California grassland research, cnga.org/GRASSgrants

Membership

Join SCB or renew your existing membership online via PayPal at: socalbot.org

Do you have something to contribute to *Leaflets*?

We like short informal articles, notes, sketches, & photographs. Send email to the Editor: ninahouse@berkeley.edu

To submit scientific articles for publication in *Crossosoma*, send email to editor@socalbot.org